

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: November 2010

Agenda Item: Classification of Exotic Wildlife

Division: F&W—Fisheries/Enforcement **Action Needed:** Approval of Final Rule/Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

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Background

Exotic wildlife must be properly classified to be legally imported into Montana. A review committee evaluates petitions for such classifications. The committee—which includes FWP, the Montana Departments of Livestock, Agriculture, and Public Health and Human Services, a representative of the exotic pet trade, and a citizen with an interest in fish and wildlife—ultimately recommends a classification to FWP Commission. The classifications are "noncontrolled," "controlled," or "prohibited." Recommendations are based on:

- A. environmental impacts caused by the animal if it is released or escapes from captivity, including ecological and economic impacts;
- B. risks the animal would pose to health or safety of the public, wildlife or agriculture; and
- C. ability to readily control and contain the animal in captivity.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Forty-seven comments were received, all in relation to the classification of coho salmon. Eleven were in support of the rule as written, 35 were in general support, and one was in opposition to the "controlled" classification of coho salmon. The one comment in opposition would support listing coho as controlled if the import was restricted to eggs only. Public comments are included in Commission packet.

Alternatives and Analysis:

The commission could decide to adopt a different classification for a particular species.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

The Classification Review Committee recommends that the FWP Commission adopt rules for the following classification of exotic wildlife:

- **Controlled**-- The following exotic wildlife may be possessed only with a Controlled Species Permit issued by FWP:
 - Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)
 - Barbary falcon (*Falco pelegrinoides*)
- **Prohibited**-- The importation, transportation or possession of the following species of live wildlife or hybrids thereof, including viable embryos or gametes, is prohibited:
 - Hyena (Family Hyaenidae)

Rule notice is included in the Commission packet.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the commission approve the classification of exotic species and associated rule changes as stated in the rule notice.

If approved, the rule will be effective on December 9, 2010.